

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-24 are pending. In the Office Action dated April 18, 2007, the Examiner objected to claims 15-20 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Further, claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Additionally, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,674,079 ("Agostini") and claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,416,763 ("Ohsaki"). Finally, the Examiner objected to claims 9, 10, 13, and 14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 9, 10, 13, and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Rejections Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) and 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner objection to claims 15-20 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) and rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the amendments to the claims.

III. Agostini Does Not Anticipate Claim 1

Amended independent claim 1 recites a disc-positioning mechanism for a car-mounted disc player wherein a clamper-supporting member is operable to move with respect to a drive chassis from a first position where a disc is inserted from a slot to a second position where the disc is clamped between the clamper and the turntable, and wherein at least one positioning member is supported on a drive chassis and a regulatory portion abuts against the clamper-supporting member when the clamper-supporting member is at least at the first position. Agostini fails to teach these elements.

Agostini is directed to an automatic disc loading and unloading mechanism for record player apparatus. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the top plate (element 26) of the Agostini apparatus teaches the clamper-supporting member and that the upper and lower halves of the housing (elements 14 and 16) of the Agostini reference teach the drive chassis. In Agostini, the housing is fixed with respect to the top plate. Agostini does not teach that a clamper-supporting member is operable to move with respect to a drive chassis from a first position where a disc is inserted from a slot to a second position where the disc is clamped between the clamper and the turntable as recited in claim 1.

Because Agostini fails to teach at least a disc-positioning mechanism for a car-mounted disc player wherein a clamper-supporting member is operable to move with respect to a drive chassis from a first position where a disc is inserted from a slot to a second position where the disc is clamped between the clamper and the turntable, and wherein at least one positioning member is supported on a drive chassis and a regulatory portion abuts against the clamper-supporting member when the clamper-supporting member is at least at the first position, Agostini necessarily does not anticipate independent claim 1, or any claim that depends on claim 1.

IV. Agostini Does Not Anticipate Claim 11

Amended independent claim 11 recites a disc-positioning mechanism for a car-mounted disc player wherein a clamper-supporting member is operable to move with respect to a drive chassis from a first position where a disc is inserted from a slot to a second position where the disc is clamped between the clamper and the turntable, and wherein at least one positioning member is supported on the clamper-supporting member and the regulatory portion abuts against the drive chassis when the clamper-supporting member is at least at the first position. Agostini fails to teach these elements.

As discussed above, in Agostini, the housing is fixed with respect to the top plate. Agostini does not teach a clamper-supporting member is operable to move with respect to a drive chassis from a first position where a disc is inserted from a slot to a second position where the disc is clamped between the clamper and the turntable. For at least

this reason, Agostini necessarily does not anticipate independent claim 11, or any claim that depends on claim 11.

V. Ohsaki Does Not Anticipate Claim 21

Amended independent claim 21 recites a disc-positioning mechanism for a car-mounted disc play wherein each of a pair of positioning members comprise an abutment and a regulatory portion, the abutment operable to make contact with an outer periphery of a first and second disc and the regulatory portion extending farther toward the slot than the abutment; wherein a clasper-supporting member is operable to move with respect to a drive chassis from a first position where a disc is inserted from a slot to a second position where the disc is clamped between a clasper and a turntable; and wherein each of the positioning members is supported on either one side of a drive chassis and the clasper-supporting member, and the regulatory portion abuts against the other side when the clasper-supporting member is at least at the first position. Ohsaki fails to teach these elements.

Ohsaki is directed to a loading mechanism for optical disk player. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the lower chassis (element 2) and frame (element 15) of Ohsaki teaches the clasper-supporting member and the lower chassis (element 2) of Ohsaki teaches the drive chassis. In Ohsaki, the frame is fixed with respect to the lower chassis. Ohsaki does not teach a clasper-supporting member that is operable to move with respect to a drive chassis from a first position where a disc is inserted from a slot to a second position where the disc is clamped between a clasper and a turntable.

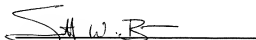
Because Ohsaki fails to teach at least a disc-positioning mechanism for a car-mounted disc play wherein each of a pair of positioning members comprise an abutment and a regulatory portion, the abutment operable to make contact with an outer periphery of a first and second disc and the regulatory portion extending farther toward the slot than the abutment; wherein a clasper-supporting member is operable to move with respect to a drive chassis from a first position where a disc is inserted from a slot to a second position where the disc is clamped between a clasper and a turntable; and wherein each of the positioning members is supported on either one side of a drive chassis and the clasper-supporting member, and the regulatory portion abuts against

the other side when the clamper-supporting member is at least at the first position, Ohsaki necessarily does not anticipate independent claim 11, or any claim that depends on claim 11.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott W. Brim", is written over a horizontal line.

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